THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) In the recent past Ms. Kunju Rani, Weight-lifter was found positive for Strychnine (a stimulant) during 2001 Senior Asian Weight-lifting Championship in Korea. So far action against the sports-person is concerned, the concerned National Sports Federation is the competent body to resolve any outstanding issue.

Fine on Cricket Players

2117. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY :
SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU :

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that six Indian cricket players have been fined for breaching the International Cricket Council Code at Port Elizabeth;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to issue any directions against this kind of unjustified order, keeping in view the dignity of Indian cricketers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) Six players of the Indian Team were penalised by the match referee. Out of six, five were fined.

(b) to (e) The Government considers this matter as an issue between the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the International Cricket Council (ICC) to be sorted out by them. The Government does not propose to issue any directions in this regard.

Panels selecting Sports Awards

2118. SHRI R.P. GOENKA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) the present composition of the panels for selecting sports persons for various categories of Awards, including the Arjuna Awards;

(b) the details of the special contribution made or role played in sports by each member included in these panels;

(c) the criteria generally followed in inducting new members to these panels; and

(d) the names, with sports background, of members who have been inducted into such panels during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) Following is the composition of the panel, which selects the sports persons for conferring the Arjuna Awards, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, Dronacharya Awards and Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad Trophy :

1.	Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India	Chairman
2	Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India.	Member
3.	Secy. (YA & Sports), Government of India	Member
4	Director General Sports Authority of India	Member
5	Joint Secretary (Sports), Government of India	Member
6.	President, Indian Olympic Association	Member
7.	President, Arjuna Awardees Association of India	Member
8.	Executive Director (Teams), Sports Authority of India	Member Secretary

(b) There is no criteria laid down in the Rules of different scheme of Awards regarding the contribution to be made in sports by each member of the Selection Committee.

(c) The Rules for Awards do not lay down any specific criteria to be followed for inducting new members in the Selection Committe. However, the Committee may invite anyone to assist it for discharging their functions.

(d) The names of eminent sports-persons who have been inducted into such panels during last three years as special invitees :

1. For selecting the awardees for the years 1998 & 1999 : Shri Chetan Chauhan, eminent cricketer.

2. For selecting the awardees for the year 2000 : Major S.N. Mathur, SM (Retd.), Yachtman and Shri Chetan Chauhan, eminent cricketer.

Scheme for Retiring Sports Persons

2119. SHRI R.P. GOENKA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of our former outstanding sports persons in various disciplines are living in chill penury and are even reported to be selling their sports medals/trophies due to lack of fruitful alternative avocations after their sporting career is over;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to institutionalize avenues for such outstanding, retiring sports persons in need of financial help and/or rehabilitation; and

(c) the details of existing welfare schemes or proposals to create special central corpus fund for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) to (c) Government does not have any information about the number of outstanding sports persons living in indigent circumstances and selling their sports medal/trophies due to lack of fruitful attractive avocation after their sporting career is over. However, under the existing scheme of "National Welfare Fund for Sports persons" implemented by the Government, pension/lump-sum financial assistance are sanctioned to outstanding sports persons living in indigent circumstances who apply for such assistance.

Besides, under the scheme of Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sports persons, pension is given to sports persons who win medals in Olympic Games, World Cup and World Championships and gold medal in Asian and Commonwealth Games.